



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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February 8, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

PROGRESS REPORT – COUNTYWIDE GANG VIOLENCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

On April 6, 2010, the Board instructed the CEO to implement a set of recommendations to address gang violence. Specifically, the CEO was directed to develop strategies that sought to: 1) prevent individuals and families from becoming involved in gang and/or delinquent activity; 2) intervene in the lives of individuals and families who have had contact with gangs or the justice system, and provide sufficient services and resources to redirect them on a path towards self-sufficiency and mainstream integration; and 3) to more strategically collaborate with law enforcement to proactively target violence and identify individuals and families who may need and desire assistance. These overarching goals were to be implemented through interventions that would also inform both current and proposed policy development and decisions.

The Board received a status report on December 15, 2010, which provided an update on progress made towards implementing the Gang Strategy. On August 11, 2011, the Board granted a one-year extension to implement the following:

- Ensure that reentry services funded through the Second Chance Grant intended to effectively transition youth from incarceration back into the community were fully utilized, and that protocols to replicate and scale reentry and transition efforts countywide were developed;

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- Ensure the formation of comprehensive juvenile and adult reentry bodies were finalized and that both bodies address operational and policy issues impacting reentry;
- Ensure that a sustainable funding infrastructure for Parks After Dark (PAD) was secured and a plan for expansion was developed; and
- Ensure collaborative suppression efforts between law enforcement agencies throughout the County continue to be aligned with prevention, intervention and reentry efforts.

On June 26, 2012, the Board was provided with a final update on the activities that occurred in each demonstration site and recommendations for the continued development of gang prevention and intervention efforts. To date, the CEO has focused attention on assisting the Probation Department with juvenile reentry efforts, working with community agencies to address AB109 – Prison Realignment implementation and shoring up community efforts to prevent and respond to gang violence.

Juvenile Reentry Efforts

- The Los Angeles County Juvenile Reentry Council (Council), chaired by Judge Donna Groman, continues to meet and works to improve the transition of incarcerated juveniles back into their respective communities. Over the last two months, Judge Groman and Council members have met with over 75 school district representatives, ensuring their understanding of the rehabilitative and education programming for incarcerated youth and seeking their direct involvement in the transition planning. The Council has also worked with Probation to expand the use of community partners, allowing them to now engage with youth and their families while youth are incarcerated.
- To assist youth with reentry efforts, youth transitioning from camp are able to obtain a copy of their birth certificate prior to leaving camp. While only available for youth born in Los Angeles County, this process ensures that youth will be able to access employment and social services that often require birth and citizenship documentation.
- The Council continues to work with the Departments of Probation, Mental Health and Office of Education to develop data and statistical information that can be disseminated consistently on a periodic basis. We anticipate providing a report on juvenile data by April 2013.

Adult Reentry Efforts

- The Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) continues to train and develop community agencies to provide services to individuals being supervised locally by Probation as a result of AB109. LARRP also continues to work with County departments to ensure that reentry planning considers the needs of various communities throughout the County, and that the reentry plan adopted by the County is reviewed and continually informed by participant circumstances.
- The County's AB109 supervision efforts will benefit from the recent assignment of two of the Gang Demonstration Site Coordinators as AB109 Probation Supervisors in the Florence-Firestone and Monrovia-Duarte areas. Over the last two years, both have coordinated gang violence reduction efforts in the same areas where they will now be supervising deputy probation officers. Their extensive knowledge of the areas and relationships with local stakeholders will strengthen their ability to transition individuals back into these communities.

Community Gang Violence Prevention Efforts

- The CEO continues to assist the Department of Parks and Recreation with the annual summer PAD Program. PAD has been expanded to five County parks with the intent to expand further as funding permits.
- The CEO received Mental Health Services Act funds to develop programming in the four demonstration sites. That funding supports multiple efforts in the sites aimed at providing youth with alternatives to gang involvement, as well as intervention efforts intended for youth who have had contact with the justice system. Collectively, over 3,000 youth have been served as a result of this funding.
- The Los Angeles Regional Gang Violence Reduction Committee (Gang Committee), chaired by the County's Chief Executive Officer, continues to meet and provide oversight of countywide efforts that impact gangs and violence. The Gang Committee will continue to explore the development of prevention efforts to reduce gang involvement, where possible, either through formal meetings or through reentry committee efforts.

Each Supervisor
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The CEO will continue to inform the Board of activities or concerns related to gangs and gang violence throughout the County. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Trish Ploehn at (213) 974-4532 or via email at tploehn@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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CDM:VH:eb

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